

## Office of the Secretary of Defense

## § 81.3

replies under section F.2. of this appendix. The DOHA Appeal Board may require oral argument at a time and place reasonable convenient to the parties.

4. The determination of the DOHA Appeal Board shall be a final administrative decision and shall be in written form. It shall address the issues presented and set forth a rationale for the decision reached. A determination denying the appeal of a parent in whole or in part shall state that the parent has the right under Pub. L. 101-476, as amended, to bring a civil action on the matters in dispute in a district court of the United States without regard to the amount in controversy.

5. No provision of this part or other DoD guidance may be construed as conferring a further right of administrative review. A party must exhaust all administrative remedies afforded by this appendix before seeking judicial review of a determination made under this appendix.

### *G. Publication and Indexing of Final Decisions*

The Director, DOHA, shall ensure that final decisions in cases arising under this Appendix are published and indexed to protect the privacy rights of the parents who are parties in those cases and the children of such parents, in accordance with 32 CFR part 310.

## **PART 81—PATERNITY CLAIMS AND ADOPTION PROCEEDINGS INVOLVING MEMBERS AND FORMER MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES**

Sec.

81.1 Reissuance and purpose.

81.2 Applicability.

81.3 Policy.

AUTHORITY: Sec. 301, 80 Stat. 379; (5 U.S.C. 301).

SOURCE: 43 FR 15149, Apr. 11, 1978, unless otherwise noted.

### **§ 81.1 Reissuance and purpose.**

This part reissued DoD Directive 1344.3, "Paternity Claims and Adoption Proceedings Involving Members and Former Members of the Armed Forces," to standardize procedures for the handling of:

(a) Paternity claims against members and former members of the Armed Forces, and

(b) Requests from civilian courts concerning the availability of members and former members of the Armed Forces to appear at an adoption hear-

ing where it is alleged that such member is the father of an illegitimate child.

### **§ 81.2 Applicability.**

The provisions of this part apply to the Military Departments.

### **§ 81.3 Policy.**

(a) *Members on active duty.* (1) Allegations of paternity against members of the Armed Forces who are on active duty will be transmitted to the individual concerned by the appropriate military authorities.

(2) If there exists a judicial order or decree of paternity or child support duly rendered by a United States or foreign court of competent jurisdiction against such a member, the commanding officer in the appropriate Military Departments will advise the member of his moral and legal obligations as well as his legal rights in the matter. See 42 U.S.C. 659. The member will be encouraged to render the necessary financial support to the child and take any other action considered proper under the circumstances.

(3) Communications from a judge of a civilian court, including a court summons or a judicial order, concerning the availability of personnel to appear at an adoption hearing, where it is alleged that an active duty member is the father of an illegitimate child, shall receive a reply that:

(i) Due to military requirements, the member cannot be granted leave to attend any court hearing until (date), or

(ii) A request by the member for leave to attend an adoption court hearing on (date), if made, would be approved, or

(iii) The member has stated in a sworn written statement (forward a copy with response) that he is not the natural parent of the child, or

(iv) Due to the member's unavailability caused by a specific reason, a completely responsive answer cannot be made.

(4) The member should be informed of the inquiry and the response and urged to obtain legal assistance for guidance (including an explanation of sections of the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act, 50 U.S.C. appendix, section 501 et seq., if appropriate).